

Message Text

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R 161828 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO MADRID, OSLO, NATO, USLOSACLANT,
USDOCOSOUTH, USCINCEUR, USNMR SHAPE, MC BRUSSELS FROM OTTAWA
150041 Z APR 73:

QUOTE: OTTAWA 0931

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SP, NO, CA

SUBJECT: NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO BARCELONA

REF: STATE 070257

1. AMBASSADOR SCHMIDT CALLED ON NORWEGIAN FONMIN VAARVIK
THIS EVENING, APRIL 14, TO EXPRESS U. S. CONCERN OVER
NORWEGIAN OBJECTIONS TO SUBJECT VISIT. PRESENT ALSO
WERE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR AND NORWEGIAN AND U. S. EMBOFFS.

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2. AMBASSADOR SCHMIDT, NOTING HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, SAID HIS VISIT EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHED TO THIS MATTER. HE NOTED THAT NAVOCFORMED WAS A CONSIDERED NATO RESPONSE TO SOVIET NAVAL BUILD- UP IN MEDITERRANEAN. HE THOUGHT THE VISIT TO BARCELONA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRIMARILY IN ITS MILITARY CONTEXT. THE NUMBER OF PORTS AVAILABLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED IN VIEW THE ATTITUDE OF THE ARAB STATES ON THE SOUTHERN LITTORAL. ON- CALL FORCE, HOWEVER SMALL, REQUIRES EXPERIENCE IN THOSE PORTS REMAINING AVAILABLE TO IT, AND IN WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN BARCELONA OR OTHER SPANISH PORT COULD BE VITALLY IMPORTANT. HE STRESSED THAT THE VISIT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN OPENING STEP FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT NO NORWEGIAN SHIPS WERE INVOLVED AND THAT ALTHOUGH OTHER NATO NATIONS HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE VISIT, NORWAY ALONE HAD VOICED OBJECTIONS.

3. VAARVIK REPLIED ALONG LINES NORDEL BUSCH' S STATEMENT AT DPC APRIL 13. HE SAID HE WAS REASSURED BY AMBASSADOR' S STATEMENT THAT THIS WAS NOT A FIRST STEP TOWARDS BRINGING SPAIN INTO THE ALLIANCE. NORWAY HAD SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF NAVOCFORMED AND SHARED ALLIANCE' S CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN PRESENCE. NORWEGIAN PUBLIC OPINION PRESENTLY SUPPORTED NATO MEMBERSHIP AND GON WAS ANXIOUS DO NOTHING DIMINISH THAT SUPPORT. HOWEVER, HE FELT SURE BARCELONA VISIT WOULD GET HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE IN NORWAY AND THAT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF NATO RELATIONSHIP, HOWEVER TENUOUS, WITH SPAIN COULD NOT BE AVOIDED IN NORWAY.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT OTHER NATO COUNTRIES (DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS) HAD SIMILAR CONCERNS ABOUT PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME. HOWEVER, THEY HAD GIVEN SILENT CONSENT TO BARCELONA VISIT IN THE INTEREST OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY. THE AMBASSADOR HOPED VAARVIK WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIS GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A SIMILAR STANCE. VAARVIK MENTIONED THAT SACEUR WAS ANXIOUS PROVIDE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR THE VISIT WHICH WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR GON. AMBASSADOR SCHMIDT REPLIED THAT THE DPC HAD SUGGESTED HIGHLIGHTING MILITARY AND OPERATIONAL NATURE OF VISIT IN ANY PRESS RELEASE. HE SUGGESTED THAT PUBLICITY FOR NAVOCFORMED WAS AIMED IN LARGE MEASURE

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AT REASSURING THOSE MEDITERRANEAN NATO MEMBERS PARTI-

CULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOVIET PRESENCE.

5. VAARVIK SAID IT UNFORTUNATE GON HAD NOT HAD TIME RAISE
MATTER WITH PARLIAMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE. PARLIAMENT AND MOST OF GON WILL BE ON HOLIDAY
NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, HE AGREED GIVE VERY SERIOUD CON-
SIDERATION TO AMB SCHMIDT' S APPROACH AND TO BE OUCH
WITH GON. HE ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT NORWEGIAN NATO
DELEGATION WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR APRIL 18 DPC.
SCHMIDT UNQUOTE ROGERS

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ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LISBON
LUXEMBOURG

REYKJAVIK
ROME
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